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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Standing Committee on Developing
Services Sectors: Fostering
Competitive Services Sectors in
Developing Countries: SHIPPING
Second session
Geneva, 11 July 1994
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

[SHIPPING]

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda, annotations to the provisional agenda and suggestions for the organization of the work of the Committee

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Fostering competitive shipping services (Impact of progressive liberalization on the development of shipping services)
4. Reports of any subsidiary bodies which may have been created
5. Review of activities of the secretariat pertaining to the work programme
6. Provisional agenda for the third session of the Standing Committee (Shipping)
7. Other business
8. Adoption of the report of the Standing Committee (Shipping) to the Trade and Development Board.

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Election of officers

In accordance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the Main Committees of the Trade and Development Board, the Standing Committee shall elect a Chairman, five Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur from among the representatives of its members, taking into account the need to ensure an equitable geographical distribution. Moreover, rule 19 of the same rules of procedure states that the Bureau of the Committee shall consist of seven members, including four members from Groups A and C combined, two members from Group B and one member from Group D, referred to in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) as amended.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The Standing Committee may wish to adopt the provisional agenda, as set out in section I above. Section III and the annexes to this note contain suggestions for the organization of the work of the Committee and a list of background documents.

Item 3: Fostering competitive shipping services (Impact of progressive liberalization on the development of shipping services)

The UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a document entitled "Progressive liberalization and the development of shipping services in developing countries" (TD/B/CN.4/34) in which issues to be addressed in the course of formulating and implementing liberalization programmes and constraints faced by service suppliers of developing countries in providing competitive shipping services are identified.

Recommendations are made with regard to institutional reform, including the restructuring of organizations dealing with the promotion of national merchant fleets as well as the implementation of consumer-oriented policies.

In particular the document stresses the following points:

- The need for additional work on a harmonized approach with regard to the extent and pace of liberalization;

- The need for assistance to developing countries for their endeavours to adjust the institutional infrastructure to changing industry and market requirements;

- The protection of interests of transport users through restructuring of shippers' councils.

The report is intended to provide a basis on which Governments and other institutions can discuss and make appropriate decisions concerning the formulation and implementation of policies leading to a progressive liberalization of shipping markets.

Item 4: Reports of any subsidiary bodies which may have been created

At its first session the Standing Committee (Shipping) discussed the setting up of an Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Ports in response to the need for a comprehensive in-depth examination of the work so far carried out by UNCTAD in the field of ports. To fulfil this task, terms of reference for such Group were submitted to the Trade and Development Board at the second part of its thirty-ninth session in March 1993, which in turn decided to convene the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Ports from 25-29 October 1993.

The secretariat has prepared a note (TD/B/CN.4/35) in which the recommendations of the Group of Experts as well as the proceedings are summarized. Part III of that note lists issues on which the Standing Committee is invited to take action. The detailed recommendations of the Group are contained in the report of the Group (TD/B/CN.4/28 - TD/B/CN.4/GE.1/4).

There was no decision on the establishment of any other subsidiary body of the Standing Committee.

Item 5: Review of activities of the secretariat pertaining to the work programme

The UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a progress report entitled "Review of activities of the secretariat pertaining to the work programme" (TD/B/CN.4/36).

This report informs the Standing Committee on all issues in the work programme which are not specifically covered by an agenda item but for which work has been carried out by the secretariat between the first and second sessions. It addresses the basic points in shipping, ports, maritime and transport legislation and multimodal transport. As the work programme recognizes especially the need to enlarge and extend activities in the area of human resources development and technical cooperation, more space has been devoted to providing a comprehensive overview of the various projects and programmes.

The report is in itself a summary which should assist the Standing Committee in assessing the work accomplished so far. More details on reported activities/studies can be found in the respective background documents, a list of which is provided in annex II below.

The Standing Committee may wish to take action on the basis of this report or, alternatively, provide guidance for future action.

Item 6: Provisional agenda for the third session of the Standing Committee (Shipping)

In accordance with rule 8 of the rules of procedure of the main Committees, the secretariat will submit during the session a draft provisional agenda for the third session of the Standing Committee (Shipping) tentatively scheduled to be convened from 24 to 28 April 1995.

Item 7: Other business

Item 8: Adoption of the report of the Standing Committee (Shipping) to the Trade and Development Board

The report of the Standing Committee (Shipping) will be submitted to the Trade and Development Board at the first part of its forty-first session.

III. SUGGESTIONS FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Pursuant to a decision taken by the Trade and Development Board at the first part of its fortieth session, the Standing Committee's session on Shipping is scheduled for five working days, from 11 to 15 July 1994. The session will commence on Monday, 11 July at 11 o'clock. Normal meeting hours are from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Limited facilities for group meetings will be available on request.

Regarding the organization of work, it is suggested that the Committee, after a debate with general statements, may wish to convert the plenary session into an informal sessional meeting with the same Bureau as the Standing Committee.

It would expedite the work of the Standing Committee if written proposals could be submitted as early as possible during the session. The Committee may wish to establish a deadline for the submission of written proposals.

A tentative schedule of meetings, drawn up on the assumption that the plenary meeting will be converted into an informal sessional meeting, is shown in annex I.

Annex I

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Monday, 11 July 11 a.m.	Item 1: Election of officers
(plenary)	Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
	General debate
Monday, 11 July 3 p.m.	General debate (concluded)
(plenary followed by informals)	Item 3: Fostering competitive shipping services (Impact of progressive liberalization on the development of shipping services)
Tuesday, 12 July 10 a.m.	Item 3: (continued)
(informals)	
Tuesday, 12 July 3 p.m.	Item 4: Reports of any subsidiary bodies
(plenary followed by informals)	that may have been created
Wed., 13 July 10 a.m.	Item 4: (continued)
(informals)	
Wed., 13 July 3 p.m.	Item 5: Review of activities of the
(informals)	secretariat pertaining to the work programme
Thursday, 14 July 10 a.m.	Item 5: (continued)
(informals)	Item 6: Provisional agenda for the third session of the Standing Committee (Shipping)
Friday, 15 July (p.m.)	Item 6: (concluded)
(plenary)	Item 7: Other business
	Item 8: Adoption of the report of the Standing Committee (Shipping) to the Trade and Development Board

Annex II

CHECKLIST OF DOCUMENTS

For ease of reference, sessional and background documents are listed below under their respective items:

Item 3: - Progressive liberalization and the development of shipping services in developing countries (TD/B/CN.4/34)

Item 4: - Note of the secretariat (TD/B/CN.4/35)
- Report of the IGE on Ports (TD/B/CN.4/28 - TD/B/CN.4/GE.1/4)

Item 5: - Progress report: Review of activities of the secretariat pertaining to the work programme (TD/B/CN.4/36)

Background documents:

Chapter

I - Cooperation among developing countries in the field of shipping (UNCTAD/SDD/SHIP/1)

- Review of Maritime Transport, 1992 (TD/B/CN.4/27)

II - Port organization and management (TD/B/CN.4/GE.1/2)

- Legal aspects of port management (UNCTAD/SHIP/639)

- Management and development of human resources in ports (UNCTAD/SHIP/644)

- Strategic planning for port authorities (UNCTAD/SHIP/646)

- Sustainable development for ports (UNCTAD/SDD/PORT/1)

III - UN/IMO Conference of Plenipotentiaries on a Convention on Maritime Liens and Mortgages: Final Act and International Convention on Maritime Liens and Mortgages, 1993 (A/CONF.162/7) and Report of the Conference (A/CONF.162/8)

- The place of general average in marine insurance today (UNCTAD/SDD/LEG/1)

IV - Containerization and standards (UNCTAD/SDD/MT/2)

- Mega multimodal transport operators and mega carriers (UNCTAD/SDD/MT/4)

- Multimodal transport and trading opportunities (UNCTAD/SDD/MT/5)

V - Implementation of the TRAINMAR Action Plan (UNCTAD/SDD/TRN/1)